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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Helmut JANSEN et al  
Patent App. 09/672,252  
Filed 28 September 2000  
For COLUMN PARTITION  
Art Unit 1764

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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TC 1700

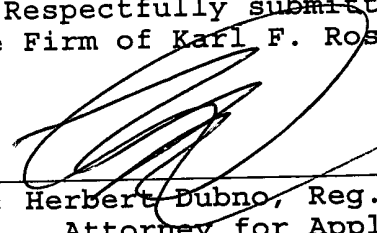
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)

There is enclosed a German Search Report citing six references. Copies of the references are enclosed along with a PTO 1449 form formally making them of record.

DE 31 35 709 has been cited in Category Y: as a reference which places in question the level of invention together with another reference and in Category A: general state of the art, technological background for the subject matter claimed and illustrated. All of the remaining references are cited in Category A: general state of the art, technological background except for EP 0 122 367 A2 which is cited as a reference already mentioned in the specification.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is filed prior to the initial action on the merits, neither a fee nor a certification is required.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Firm of Karl F. Ross P.C.



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By: Herbert Dubno, Reg. No. 19,752  
Attorney for Applicant

DB-

Cust. No.: 535  
DATED: 1 February 2001  
5676 Riverdale Avenue Box 900  
Riverdale (Bronx), NY 10471-0900  
Tel: (718) 884-6600  
Fax: (718) 601-1099  
Encls: PTO 1449 & References